

ANTHONY D. WEINER
9TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

DEMOCRATIC WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3209

September 3, 2009

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The Honorable Michael J. Astrue
Commissioner
Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235-0001

Dear Commissioner Astrue:

I am writing to express disbelief and concerns about recent reports that there will be no Social Security cost of living adjustment in 2010 and 2011. I believe that this reinforces my efforts to enact a regional cost of living adjustment (COLA) that more accurately reflects the true costs seniors face.

New York City is one of the most expensive cities in the world, and during these tough economic times, seniors need a cost of living adjustment that they depend on to make ends meet. With rising rents, food prices, and Medicare Part D premiums, many seniors will be forced even further into poverty when their checks arrive in 2010 without an increase—or in some cases lower than they were in 2009.

As you know, I have long held the belief that calculating Social Security increases based solely on the Consumer Price Index is unfair and inaccurate. New York City seniors face higher costs for every item across the board, and for too long have seen their Social Security dollar stretched under the high cost of living.

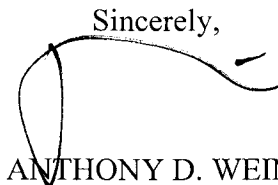
I am aware that the Social Security Administration and its trustees base their cost of living decisions on the Bureau of Labor and Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, but this index does not accurately reflect the regional cost of living differences facing seniors.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request and I hope that you will join me in advocating for regional cost of living adjustments.

Sincerely,



TOBY ANN STAVISKY
New York State Senator



ANTHONY D. WEINER
Member of Congress



NETTIE MAYHERSOHN
Assemblywoman